

# Walk the SF Waterfront in the Visitor Center



Above, left: A small section of one of three large murals specially painted for "The Waterfront" exhibit being constructed in the park's Visitor Center. The mural depicts the San Francisco Bay shoreline near the Golden Gate as it looked in the 1770s. In the distance on the hill is The Presidio (fort), built by the Spanish in 1776. Above, right: The introductory panel of the exhibit uses an 1878 map of San Francisco showing the six immersive environments along the "walk." NPS Photos

In the back half of the visitor center a unique exhibit is taking shape. When completed early next year, visitors will be able to take an historic “walk” along the water’s edge of San Francisco beginning at the Golden Gate near a Native American Yelamu village and ending in the shipyards at Hunter’s Point in the southern part of the city. Your feet will not be nearly as tired as if you walked the actual nine miles, but your senses will be overwhelmed by the hundreds of rare artifacts and photographs displayed within recreated settings of a long-since vanished waterfront.

Historic sections of San Francisco’s storied waterfront, not seen for over a hundred years, are being replicated. Among them are a full scale reconstruction of a sailor’s boarding house, waterfront piers, a Barbary Coast bar, and the sandy shoreline of an Indian village. The stories of people who came to and from ports on the East and West Coasts, and from all over the world, will be told. Listen in as sailors trade yarns at a Barbary coast bar and as Italian fish sellers and their customers haggle over prices along Fisherman's Wharf. Your ears will ring with the clamor of steel shipbuilding as you make your way toward Hunter's Point.

Park employees have collaborated with historians and scholars from the Native American, Chinese, and Italian communities to inform and enhance the exhibit.

The exhibit is organized into six areas. (See map above.) Upon entering, visitors will be drawn into the lush, marshy edge of San Francisco Bay during the 1770s in the area we now know as Crissy Field, as they stand and gaze into a huge floor to ceiling mural.

The park worked with Native American consultant Linda Yamane to accurately depict a wind-swept Yelamu village. Ms. Yamane constructed the tule reed canoe that rests at the shoreline. Also, botanists, geologists, and historians all contributed, ensuring the accuracy of the landscape, wildlife, and structures that are portrayed.

So get ready early next year to take a “walk along the edge” and visit a wind-swept Yelamu village at the Golden Gate, find Gold Rush ships buried under the Barbary Coast, hear the

clamor along the shore, and get lost in the salt-soaked stories that made “Frisco” a legendary port. But just in case, wear comfortable shoes and dress in layers, because this exhibit may inspire you to go out and explore the real thing! For updates on how the exhibit is progressing, please call the Visitor Center information desk, 415-447-5000.



Abby Lawton, a volunteer in the park's preservation lab, cleaning an eight-foot long telescope made in SF in the mid 1800s that will be on display—one of the hundreds of artifacts that will be included in the exhibit. NPS Photo by Eloise Warren SAFR12337



Linda Yamane with the tule reed canoe she made for the exhibit. NPS Photo

### Welcome

Before you get distracted by all these exciting fall offerings, please add our Park Open House to your calendar: Thursday, September 29, from 4–7pm, in the Maritime Museum lobby. Stop by for the latest *scuttlebutt* about park resources and upcoming projects!

She may not be a sleek trireme (Hellenistic-era warship), but our 1891 *Alma* is playing the role of sailing stage in an innovative production of the classic sea story *The Odyssey*. These We Players events will transform a series of autumn Bay sails into fantastic voyages of exploration and homecoming. Reserve your seat on the oar bench today!

This October, our Sea Chantey Program turns 30! Help us celebrate three decades of aural history with a day of free music on Hyde Street Pier. Past participants: reunite with the crew. Greenhorns: this is your chance to join the chorus!

And inside this issue: learn how Park historians are using a silver pitcher to enrich the legacy of Pacific Mail Steamship captain Richard L. Whiting (who was part of the *SS California*’s crew when she entered the Golden Gate in 1849).



Craig Kenkel  
Superintendent

## 1 Exhibit In Visitor Center Taking Shape

"The Waterfront" exhibit is transforming the Visitor Center and will be opening to the public next year.

## 2 A Silver Link To Our Golden Past

A beautiful silver pitcher opens the door to the past providing some answers and posing many new questions.

## 4 Comics For Kids

Our outer space visitors have returned to the park after a visit to their mother planet to teach us a thing or two about the evolution of shipbuilding.



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**National Park Service**  
U.S. Department of the Interior

**San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park**

Established in 1988, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park encompasses 34 acres, and contains the most National Historic Landmarks of any unit in the National Park Service. In addition to the fleet of historic ships at Hyde Street Pier, the park includes the Aquatic Park Historic District (Maritime Museum, beach, lawn area, and bocce ball courts), a Visitor Center and a research library (in Fort Mason Center).

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# A Silver Link To Our Golden Past

BY DIANE COOPER, MUSEUM TECHNICIAN

The park maintains a large collection of artifacts and archival materials. Each artifact, document, or photograph has a story to tell and offers insights to our past. Through the study of the physical objects people created and endowed with meaning, we have the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of our past and how it shapes our present-day.

With each new donation, a new piece of a giant jigsaw puzzle is found and fit into place, revealing a bit more of the historical picture. One recent donation that we are fitting into our puzzle is an ornately decorated eleven-inch-high silver pitcher that was crafted during the mid-nineteenth century and the early days of California statehood (1850).



The pitcher is decorated with waterfront scenes along the sides and a detailed relief image of a steamship from the Pacific Mail Steamship Company on the front. Below the steamer, “From Capt. R.L. Whiting 1857,” is inscribed. The Pacific Mail Steamship Company started just as gold was discovered in California (1848) and grew along with the city of San Francisco. The Pacific Mail steamer SS *California* arrived in San Francisco Bay in February 1849, loaded with mail from the East Coast and over 350 gold seeking passengers, becoming the first steamship to pass through the Golden Gate.

Among the crew members was First Officer Richard L. Whiting who was later promoted to captain and commanded several of the Pacific Mail steamships. Whiting settled in San Francisco, marrying and raising a family in the city’s South Park district. A distinguished captain and beloved member of his community, the city lowered its flags to half mast when he died suddenly on January 31, 1861.

So how does this silver pitcher fit into our historical jigsaw puzzle? Initially, this piece offers a tangible glimpse into the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. Captain Whiting held a prestigious position within

the company. Perhaps the cup was presented by him to some unknown person in recognition for an heroic deed. We just do not know, but we will continue our search for the missing puzzle pieces that surround this pitcher. For now, however, it has forged a small silver link to our golden past.

## The *Alma* and *The Odyssey*



The park welcomes the We Players’ production of the classic sea story *The Odyssey* aboard the park’s 1891 scow schooner *Alma*. For eleven autumn afternoons, from September 17 to November 18, *Alma*’s broad, sturdy deck will evoke Odysseus’ sleek black triremes, and help tell the unlucky sailor’s tale of travel, exploration, and homecoming.

Each performance will take place during a three-hour sail on San Francisco Bay, as the cast and crew weave real-time line handling with Homer’s stirring account of weary seafarers striking sail for home. Audience seating is limited to 40 per performance, and tickets are available in advance only. Performance dates are 9/17, 18; 10/1, 28, 29; 11/4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 18. For reservations and ticket information, please visit [www.weplayers.org](http://www.weplayers.org).

We Players is a local collective which presents site-specific performances that transform public spaces into realms of participatory theatre. They create theatre using predominantly classical texts and weave the narrative elements of each play with the unique stories of each site. Past productions have included staging *Hamlet* on Alcatraz Island, and *Macbeth* at Fort Point National Historic Site.

# 30 Years of Gathering Together To Sing

BY PETER KASIN, PARK RANGER

On Saturday, Oct. 1 join us in celebrating 30 years of hosting the monthly evening chantey sing! Between 11:30am and 5:00pm, hear performances on Hyde Street Pier by some of the singers and instrumentalists who have been a part of this event over the years. Return for the evening sing from 8pm until midnight.

The idea for a regularly scheduled chantey sing began as a spinoff of the park's Festival of the Sea. A number of singers stayed on after the festival's close for a singing session. As it ended, someone was overheard asking if we had to wait another year for another gathering. Dave Nettel, an interpretive park ranger who organized park music programs, began to host evening chantey sings, becoming the first

of several rangers who have organized the sings over the years. The monthly event began to draw a large and loyal following, where singers would huddle together in the hold of the 1895 lumber schooner *C. A. Thayer*.

Chanteys are the work songs of sailors, stevedores and fishermen. They set the rhythm and lighten the load of backbreaking jobs. The lyrics to these songs serve as portholes into our seafaring past, when seafarers sung about the Cape Horn passage, of pirates and plunderers, of emigrating to California, of cruel mates and masters, of their longings and loves, and the joys and curse of drink.

The chantey sing is currently held aboard the square-rigger *Balclutha*, and occasionally on the ferryboat *Eureka*, where all are

invited to lead songs and sing along on the choruses. Chantey sing ranger Peter Kasin, who has been hosting since 1996, describes it as a "safe place to sing." The choruses to the songs are easy to learn, and no special singing ability is required to join in. The lyrics often express universal themes of courage, fear, desire, longing for a better life, and of joy and sorrow. The chantey sing remains an event where maritime history comes alive through music, and where all are welcome to share in it.

The performances on the pier are free. Visiting the historic ships is \$5 for those 16 and older with entry good for seven days. The evening sing is also free but please make a reservation by calling 415-561-7171 or email [peter\\_kasin@nps.gov](mailto:peter_kasin@nps.gov). All performances on Hyde Street Pier and the evening chantey sing are accessible.



A chantey sing in the hold of the lumber schooner *C. A. Thayer* in 1989. NPS 89070207

## Visitor Information

### Dates and Hours of Operation:

**Hyde Street Pier**, located at Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30AM to 5:00PM. Last pier entry at 4:30PM.

**Visitor Center**, located at the corner of Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30AM to 5:00PM.

**Maritime Museum (in the Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building)**, located on Beach Street at the foot of Polk Street. The building is open from 10AM to 4PM daily.

**Maritime Library**, located on the third floor of Building E in Fort Mason Center (auto entrance at Buchanan Street and Marina Blvd). The library is open Tuesday–Thursday, 1PM to 5PM. For other open hours call 415-561-7030 and visit [www.nps.gov/safr/historyculture/museum-collections.htm](http://www.nps.gov/safr/historyculture/museum-collections.htm).

**Contact Information**  
General Park Information: 415-447-5000  
Pacific West Info Center: 415-447-0463  
Maritime Store: 415-775-2665  
USS *Pampanito*: 415-775-1943  
Park Website: [www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr)  
Association Website: [www.maritime.org](http://www.maritime.org)  
Library Friends: [www.maritimelibraryfriends.org](http://www.maritimelibraryfriends.org)

**Entrance Fee for Historic Vessels: \$5**  
Free for supervised children under 16.  
Free with Federal Interagency Annual, Senior, and Access Passes, and San Francisco Maritime NHP Annual Pass.

**No-Fee Areas**  
Visitor Center, Hyde Street Pier, Museum Building, Aquatic Park Historic Landmark District, and the Maritime Library (Fort Mason Center).

**Reservations**  
Reservations for school groups and other educational groups must be made at least two weeks prior to your visit. Please call 415-292-6664.

### Accessibility Information



Programs in the Visitor Center, on Hyde Street Pier, and in the library are accessible. Accessibility to programs on the ships varies. For detailed information, please call the Visitor Center, 415-447-5000, or <http://www.nps.gov/safr/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm>.

**Permits**  
Special Use Permits require at least a one month notice and application. Filming permits are arranged on an individual basis. Please call 415-561-7170.



# Music, Tours, Events, Lectures and Living History

Please turn to the back page for today's schedule.

## NEW PROGRAM

**WHO *ARE* THOSE SWIMMERS?**  
*Saturdays, September 10, October 22, and November 5, 3-3:45PM. On the pocket beach at Hyde Street Pier. Free.*  
Call it crazy, but is it *really*? We'll learn the truth as we observe swimmers, find out how the tradition started, and discuss the benefits of bay swimming. We'll begin at the pocket beach. Then we will go to a swim club next door to interview one of those "crazy?" swimmers! 😊



## PROGRAMS

**BIRDS OF THE BAY**  
*Sundays, September 11, and October 30, and November 20, 10-11AM. Meet at the entrance to Hyde Street Pier. Free.*  
This is a walk for children and beginners, but all are welcome. We will view water, shore, citified, and migratory birds on this easy stroll. There will be a brief orientation to spotting birds, and to using guidebooks and binoculars. Dress in layers with sun hat and sunscreen. Bring your own guidebooks and binoculars if you have them. 😊

**ANIMALS OF HYDE STREET PIER**  
*September 9 & 25 and October 7 & 23, 3PM. Meet at the end of Hyde Street Pier. Free.*  
Come experience a whole different world you might not realize exists at Hyde Street Pier. Be prepared for squishy, slimy, and squirty creatures. 😊

**MARITIME STORY TIME: THE TALE OF HENRY AND HARRY**  
*Saturdays, September 10 & 17, and October 1, 1-1:30PM. Meet in the Visitor Center. Free. Ages 6-12.*  
Join in this fun-filled, interactive program about two stowaway kittens aboard the *Balclutha*. Find out what it was like to be a feline sailor in 1887. 😊

**CRAFTS FOR KIDS**  
*Saturdays, September 24, October 29, and November 26, 3PM. Meet at the entrance to Hyde Street Pier. Free.*  
Want to learn a little about life at sea and try your hand at making a maritime craft? Come on down to the pier and join us! 😊

**HISTORIC WATERFRONT WALKING TOUR: FROM GOLD RUSH TO NATIONAL PARK**  
*Saturdays and Sundays, 10:30-11:30AM. Meet in the Argonaut Hotel lobby (495 Jefferson St.), next to the Visitor Center. Free.*  
Stroll with a Park Ranger to discover the history of this vibrant area on this mile-long tour through the Aquatic Park Historic District, the Cannery, Hyde Street Pier, and "Fish Alley" at Fisherman's Wharf. 😊

😊 **FUN FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM**

**MARITIME MUSEUM**  
*Open 10:00AM to 4:00PM daily. Located at 900 Beach Street, at the foot of Polk Street. Free.*  
The newly restored 1939 Works Progress Administration-era building's lobby and veranda are open to the public. View the the unique architecture, stunning murals, sculpture, and temporary exhibits. 😊

**ADVENTURES AT SEA: LIFE ABOARD A 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY SAILING SHIP**  
*Daily, 2:15PM. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).*  
Join a guided tour of the historic ship *Balclutha*. Discover the hardships and rewards of the sailors who fought for survival during the treacherous Cape Horn passage. 😊

**LIGHTHOUSES OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY**  
*Sundays, September 18, October 16, and November 20, 3:15PM. Meet in the Visitor Center. Free.*  
Join Volunteer Warren Riley for a program on the role of lighthouses in the development of San Francisco. Learn about the history, equipment, and unique people who ran the lighthouses.

**ALONG THE WATERFRONT**  
*Sundays, September 18, October 16, and November 20, 1PM. Meet in the Visitor Center. Free.*  
Join Volunteer Warren Riley for an illustrated talk on changes to the San Francisco waterfront. Learn how historical events, such as the discovery of gold in 1848, contributed to the transformation of the waterfront over more than 100 years.

**HERCULES ENGINEERING TOUR**  
*Sundays, September 4 and November 6, 1-1:45PM. Meet at the gangway on the Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free). Tour includes climbing moderately steep ladders and entering cramped spaces.*  
Explore the major engineering spaces and learn about steam engine technology and its effects on the working environment of the marine steam engineer. 😊

**EUREKA ENGINE ROOM TOUR**  
*Sunday, October 2, 1-1:45PM. Meet on Eureka's gangway. Vessel admission (under 16 free). Tour includes climbing moderately steep ladders and entering cramped spaces.*  
Take a special tour of the ferryboat *Eureka's* engine room and get a close-up look at what makes a steam ferry run. 😊

**SMALL CRAFT COLLECTION TOUR**  
*Saturdays, September 10, October 8, and November 12, 10:30AM-12:00PM. Free. Call 415-292-6664, or email mgardner@maritime.org, to make a reservation and for directions to the warehouse.*  
We'll tour the collection of nearly 100 historic boats, stored in a warehouse in Alameda, talking about history, design and construction. Bring a bag lunch.

**TOUR OF THE WW II SUBMARINE USS PAMPANITO**  
*September 6 & 22, October 4 & 20, and November 10 & 15, 2PM. Meet at the submarine located at Pier 45, Fisherman's Wharf. Call 415-775-1943 for ticket prices.*  
Join a park ranger for a tour of this Balao-class submarine (SS-38). Now a museum and memorial, the vessel made six patrols in the Pacific during WWII. The tour will emphasize stories about dramatic events during those patrols.

**MODEL MAKING WORKSHOP**  
*Saturday mornings, on Eureka. Vessel admission (under 16 free).*  
Visit the Hyde Street Pier model-making shipwrights workshop on *Eureka*. Talk with members and see their works-in-progress. For information kanebulota@comcast.net.

## MUSIC

**CHANTEY SING**  
*Saturdays, September 3, October 1\*, and November 5, 8PM-MIDNIGHT. Free. Aboard a historic vessel at Hyde Street Pier. Reservations are required: call 415-561-7171 or email peter\_kasin@nps.gov.*  
Sing traditional working songs aboard a historic floating vessel. Bring a mug for hot cider served from the ship's galley. The Sing's 30th anniversary\* will be celebrated on October 1, 2011. See article on page two.

**MUSIC OF THE SEA FOR KIDS**  
*Saturdays, September 17, October 15 and November 19, 3PM. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).*  
History comes alive for kids in this special program, where the songs are geared for younger ears and chosen especially for fun. Ages 7 and up. 😊

**23<sup>RD</sup> SEA MUSIC CONCERT SERIES**  
*Saturdays, October 15, and November 19, 8PM. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. For tickets go to www.maritime.org or call 415-561-6662.*



David Coffin, October 15



Holdstock and Macleod, November 19

**SAILING ON AN HISTORIC SCHOONER**  
*September 3, 10, 24; October 14, 22; Nov. 19, 12:30PM-4PM. On ALMA at Hyde Street Pier. Haul line to raise the sails with National Park Service Rangers as you explore the Bay aboard the historic 60-foot Alma. \$40 adult, \$30 senior, \$20 child, under six free with adult. For reservations call 415-447-5000. More info: www.nps.gov/safr/scowschoonersailschedule2011.htm 😊*

## COSTUMED LIVING HISTORY

**A DAY IN THE LIFE: 1901**  
*Saturdays, September 10, October 15, and November 12, NOON-4PM. Aboard the historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free). Reservations are required, please call 415-447-5000.*  
Step into the past as you board the historic ships. Help the sailors on *Balclutha* raise the staysail in the morning, and then sing chanteys during the afternoon dogwatch. Visit the ship's cook in the galley, talk to ferry passengers on *Eureka*, and discuss the issues of the day during afternoon tea with Mrs. Galan on the Ark houseboat. Join the *Seamen's Friend Society* in October, and learn about sailors' arts and crafts as they *Make and Mend* in November. 😊

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**SPAIN COMES TO CALIFORNIA**  
*Sundays, September 25 and October 2, 3PM. Meet in the Visitor Center. Free.*  
Long before the Stars and Stripes flew over California, the flag of the King of Spain appeared off the coast. This presentation will explore the voyage of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo. Learn of his exploits and legacy.

**FIESTA DE ARTE EN EL PARQUE (ART PARTY IN THE PARK) AT CRISSY FIELD CENTER**  
*Saturday, October 1, 10AM-2PM. At Golden Gate National Recreation Center, Crissy Field Center, 1199 East Beach. \$5 suggested donation. Call, 415-561-2805. www.crissyfield.org*  
During Hispanic Heritage Month, join us in an Arts Fiesta at the Crissy Field Center! Enjoy live entertainment, sample cultural treats, and create Day of the Dead art in preparation of the upcoming holiday. Art activity choices include painting traditional cheery Calacas, making paper flowers, face painting, and much, much more. All ages welcome. 😊

## IN THE LIBRARY

*These programs are held in the Maritime Library, Building E, Fort Mason Center. For reservations call 415-561-7040 or melani\_van\_petten@partner.nps.gov.*

**THE TRUE STORY OF MOBY DICK**  
*Tuesday, September 20, 6PM.*  
Join us for an evening of fact and fiction, as we explore the library's video collection and view versions of Herman Melville's classic tale, followed by a documentary on the wreck of the whaling ship *Essex* in 1820 – the incident that inspired Melville's story.

**THE SEA CAPTAIN'S ODYSSEY**  
*Tuesday, October 18, 6PM. Donation: \$5 (general public); \$4 (Library Friends and SFMNP members).*  
Marvin Shepherd will discuss his new book, "The Sea Captain's Odyssey—A Biography of Captain H.H. Buhne, 1822-1894." Hans Heinrich Buhne was the first white settler to pilot a ship across the Humboldt Bar in 1850, and starting with virtually nothing, went on to personal and commercial success as one of the founders of the town of Eureka.

**THE CRUISE OF THE SHENANDOAH**  
*Tuesday, November 29, 6PM.*  
The Confederate raider C.S.S. *Shenandoah* played havoc with the U.S. commercial fleet in the Pacific, capturing or sinking 38 ships and taking thousands of prisoners during her nine-month voyage of destruction. As part of our observation of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, we will trace the *Shenandoah's* 27,000 mile cruise, ending when she fired the final shot of the war—three months after Lee's surrender.



**Friends of the San Francisco Maritime Museum Library**  
Join the Friends and help support the J. Porter Shaw Library. Membership includes reduced admission to Friends' events, free admission to the historic ships, and discounts on books purchased at the library and The Maritime Store on Hyde Street Pier. Call 415-561-7040.



For more information about these programs, please turn to page three.

- 1 Guided Tour of *Balclutha* (daily)
- 3 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour  
(every Saturday)  
Chantey Sing  
Hyde Street Pier Model Shop Open  
(every Saturday)
- 4 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour  
(every Sunday)  
*Hercules* Engine Room Tour
- 6 USS *Pampanito* Tour
- 9 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- 10 Small Craft Collection Tour  
Costumed Living History On The Pier  
Maritime Story Time  
Who Are Those Swimmers?
- 11 Birds Of The Bay
- 17 Maritime Story Time

- 1 Guided Tour of *Balclutha* (daily)  
Historic Waterfront Walking Tour  
(every Saturday)  
30th Anniversary Chantey Sing  
Celebration on Hyde Street Pier  
Maritime Story Time  
Hyde Street Pier Model Shop Open  
(every Saturday)  
Chantey Sing
- 2 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour  
(every Sunday)  
*Eureka* Engine Room Tour

1 Guided Tour of *Balclutha* (daily)  
5 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour  
(every Saturday)  
Who Are Those Swimmers?



**Park Website:** [www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr)

Good books about ship development: *Encyclopedia of Ships and Seafaring*, edited by Peter Kemp. *Illustrated History of Ships & Boats*, by Lionel Casson. *The Encyclopedia of Ships*, by Tony Gibbons.

For more Zig and Zog comics go to [www.nps.gov/safr/forkids/parkfun.htm](http://www.nps.gov/safr/forkids/parkfun.htm)

